

Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office

Certification Review Committee (CRC)

Minutes of the Meeting

November 13, 2012

A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor, Providence, RI 02908 on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson and Muraina Akinfolarin. Members absent: Denise Correy and Carmen Diaz-Jusino. Also in attendance were Patsy Peterson and Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.

The Minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The CRC reviewed a recommendation by the MBE Compliance Office regarding the application for certification submitted on behalf of the following firm:

a) Fortress Systems International, Inc. MBE/DBE NC

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the DBE certification for this firm. Motion carried

unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve the newly certified DBE firm for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

The CRC reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding the applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:

- a) A & A Electric Supply Corporation WBE/DBE MA**
- b) Berkshire Concrete Cutting, LLC WBE/DBE CT**
- c) Berkshire Industrial Services, LLC WBE/DBE CT**

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify these firms of the need for a hearing based upon issues of ownership, control, dependency, affiliation, compensation, and the appearance that firms were structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearings:

Bella Transport, Inc. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as a WBE and DBE submitted by Bella Transport, Inc., and was attended by Ms. Monica Furtado, President of Bella Transport, Inc. and by Mr. Brian Palmer, VP of Bella Transport, Inc. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of ownership, control, dependency, capital

contributions, and the appearance that the firm may have been structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the DBE certification for this firm. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve the newly certified DBE firm for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

Safal Partners, Inc. – A hearing had originally been scheduled before the CRC regarding the application for certification as an MBE, WBE and DBE submitted by Safal Partners, Inc. Prior to the hearing, Safal Partners, Inc. provided additional information relative to the applicant's personal financial data and economic disadvantage status, which eliminated the need for a formal hearing. Based upon review of this additional information, and after some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the DBE certification for this firm. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve the newly certified DBE firm for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

A continued discussion ensued regarding the recent changes to 49 CFR 26 regarding Inter-State DBE Certification. To date nothing has been finalized between the New England region UCP members. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4 -5, 2012, in Vermont. It was noted that the Inter-State Certification Agreement, if

finalized, will impact only the DBE program. Out of state firms seeking MBE certification will still need to submit a full application for review.

A continued discussion ensued regarding potential changes to the current MBE certification regulations. The MBE Compliance Office is currently drafting new proposed regulations for review and approval.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.